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Agenda item 92 (b)

Training and research: United Nations University

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 92 (b) (see A/59/490, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 35th and 39th meetings, on 17 November and 14 December 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.35 and 39).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.35 and Rev.1

2. At the 35th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Japan, on behalf of Andorra, Angola, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/59/L.35) entitled "United Nations University" and informed the Committee that Algeria had withdrawn from the list of sponsors.

3. At the same meeting, the representative of Japan orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/59/490 and Add.1 and 2.

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(a) In operative paragraph 3, after the words "from developing countries", the words "and the economies in transition" were inserted;

(b) In operative paragraph 4, after the words "in Bonn", the word "Germany" was inserted.

4. The draft resolution, as orally revised, read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* its previous resolutions on the United Nations University, including resolution 57/267 of 20 December 2002,

"*Having considered* the report of the Council of the United Nations University, as presented by the Rector of the University on 16 November 2004, and the report of the Secretary-General,

"*Bearing in mind* the importance of the intellectual contributions made by the University for the United Nations system,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* for the voluntary contributions made by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

"1. *Notes with satisfaction* the implementation of the 'Strategic Plan, 2000: Advancing Knowledge for Human Security and Development', which lays out broad programmatic orientations with special focus on the priority concerns of the United Nations and the need to bring together theory and practice in a global perspective, and requests the United Nations University to continue to attach importance to the priority agendas of the United Nations system;

"2. *Highly appreciates* the successful steps taken by the University to promote the work and visibility of the University, including its research and training centres and programmes, to strengthen interaction with and contributions to the work of the United Nations system and to create new networks of activity with the academic communities in host countries, including Japan, and encourages the University to continue with such efforts;

"3. *Expresses particular appreciation* of the University's support to scholars from developing countries and the economies in transition, especially young scholars, through its capacity and network development activities;

"4. *Congratulates* the University on the inauguration of the new research and training programme on Environment and Human Security in Bonn, Germany, and encourages it to continue with efforts towards creating a critical mass of viable research and training centres and programmes around the world, focused in particular on meeting the urgent needs and concerns of developing countries;

"5. *Welcomes* the adoption and use by the University of computer-mediated dissemination and learning technologies through the United Nations University Online Learning Initiative, and in particular the establishment of the Global Virtual University, which facilitates the intensification of activities in the areas of education and training, and encourages the further strengthening of these activities;

"6. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the consolidation of the joint initiative by the University and the United Nations Office at Geneva to convene a yearly research and policy dialogue that is thematically focused and involves the United Nations system and other entities engaged in policy research and analysis;

"7. *Encourages* the University to continue its efforts to implement the Secretary-General's suggestion on innovative measures to improve interaction and communication between the University and other United Nations entities, in particular by identifying and giving priority to common themes of interest;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage other bodies of the United Nations system to utilize more fully the capacity of the University for mobilizing a worldwide network of applied policy researchers to assist the United Nations, through research and capacity development, in resolving pressing global problems;

"9. *Appreciates* the efficiency gains achieved by the University in order to make optimal use of modest and limited resources, and emphasizes the continuing need for cost-effectiveness in conducting the activities of the University;

"10. *Welcomes* the University's increasing efforts to widen and diversify its financial base, and invites the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, in particular to its Endowment Fund, as a means of consolidating the distinctive identity of the University in the United Nations system and the international academic community;

"11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session an item entitled 'United Nations University'."

5. At the 39th meeting, on 14 December 2004, the representative of Japan introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/59/L.35/Rev.1) entitled "United Nations University" and orally revised it by inserting, in operative paragraph 3, after the words "from developing countries and the", the words "countries with".

6. Also at the 39th meeting, the following countries joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution: Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Eritrea, India, Lesotho, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, the Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.35/Rev.1 as orally revised (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University, including resolution 57/267 of 20 December 2002,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University,[1] as presented by the Rector of the University on 16 November 2004, and the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

Bearing in mind the importance of the intellectual contributions made by the University for the United Nations system,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions made by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the implementation of the "Strategic Plan, 2000", which lays out broad programmatic orientations with special focus on the priority concerns of the United Nations and the need to bring together theory and practice in a global perspective, and requests the United Nations University to continue to attach importance to the priority agendas of the United Nations system;

2. *Highly appreciates* the successful steps taken by the University to promote the work and visibility of the University, including its research and training centres and programmes, to strengthen interaction with and contributions to the work of the United Nations system and to create new networks of activity with the academic communities in host countries, including Japan, and encourages the University to continue with such efforts;

3. *Expresses particular appreciation* of the University's support to scholars from developing countries and the countries with economies in transition, especially young scholars, through its capacity and network development activities;

4. *Notes with interest* the inauguration of the new Research and Training Programme in Bonn, Germany, and encourages the University to continue with efforts towards creating a critical mass of viable research and training centres and programmes around the world, focused in particular on meeting the urgent needs and concerns of developing countries;

5. *Welcomes* the adoption and use by the University of computer-mediated dissemination and learning technologies through the United Nations University Online Learning Initiative, and in particular the establishment of the Global Virtual University, which facilitates the intensification of activities in the areas of education and training, and encourages the further strengthening of these activities;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31* (A/59/31).

[2] A/59/566.

6. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the consolidation of the joint initiative by the University and the United Nations Office at Geneva to convene a yearly research and policy dialogue that is thematically focused and involves the United Nations system and other entities engaged in policy research and analysis;

7. *Encourages* the University to continue its efforts to implement the Secretary-General's suggestion on innovative measures to improve interaction and communication between the University and other United Nations entities, in particular by identifying and giving priority to common themes of interest;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage other bodies of the United Nations system to utilize more fully the capacity of the University for mobilizing a worldwide network of applied policy researchers to assist the United Nations, through research and capacity development, in resolving pressing global problems;

9. *Appreciates* the efficiency gains achieved by the University in order to make optimal use of modest and limited resources, and emphasizes the continuing need for cost-effectiveness in conducting the activities of the University;

10. *Welcomes* the University's increasing efforts to widen and diversify its financial base, and invites the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, in particular to its Endowment Fund, as a means of consolidating the distinctive identity of the University in the United Nations system and the international academic community;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session an item entitled "United Nations University".